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**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LEADERS MEET WITH STATE LEGISLATURE TO  
PROMOTE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS**

**SACRAMENTO** – Local elected leaders representing the six-county Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region met today with state legislators to advocate for high priority Southern California transportation improvements in the pending state infrastructure bond measures. In addition to relieving congestion and improving air quality, the SCAG delegation argued that investments in the region’s infrastructure would yield significant economic returns to the state in the short- and long-term.

At the request of the state’s Business, Transportation and Housing Department, SCAG submitted a consensus Goods Movement Plan last year to help the state identify Southern California’s transportation and infrastructure priorities. The state infrastructure bond measures are expected to reflect many of the priorities in this plan. SCAG presented seven infrastructure priority issues to legislators:

- 1) **Project Funding** – Ensure the equitable distribution of highway and transit funds, with priority given to projects providing environmental mitigation. Funding for goods movement should be assessed based on freight volume and performance.
- 2) **Expedited Project Delivery** – Allow design-build and design-sequencing with early assistance to promote private sector participation and conduct environmental reviews.
- 3) **Prop 42 Funds** – Ensure that gasoline tax revenues are fully protected behind a full firewall from diversions to non-transportation spending.
- 4) **Financing Tools** – Employ a business plan model to create transportation systems and implement different financing schemes that promote public-private partnerships.
- 5) **Transit/Rail** – Provide funding for high-speed rail to connect regional airports and give priority to transit-oriented and mixed-use housing.
- 6) **Housing** – Provide priority funding to areas meeting fair share housing under the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) program, allocate funds based on regional planning allocation formula and promote 20-year housing planning.
- 7) **CEQA Efficiency** – Promote and encourage implementation of regional planning initiatives and protect open space and other environmental resources.

“California’s economy is largely based on our ability to move goods. The state must support efforts to improve our transportation systems and infrastructure or our economy will come to a halt,” said Toni Young, Port Hueneme city councilmember and President of SCAG.

More than 40 percent of the nation's trade volume uses Southern California's ports, but the current transportation infrastructure required to deliver cargo is not adequate to handle anticipated trade growth without increasing traffic congestion, air pollution and other detrimental impacts on the local communities. Key transportation infrastructure investments are needed to improve the state's goods movement system or it may lose billions of dollars in future economic growth. With federal funding at an inadequate level to accommodate the region's trade growth, state funding is a critical financing mechanism.

In addition to SCAG President Toni Young, the SCAG Southern California delegation included Calabasas Mayor Dennis Washburn; San Gabriel Councilmember Harry Baldwin; SCAG Executive Director Mark Pisano; and David Ryu, staff for Los Angeles County Supervisor and SCAG First Vice President Yvonne B. Burke.

The group met with a number of the state legislators and transportation leaders at the Capitol during their trip to Sacramento this week, including:

- Sen. Alan Lowenthal, Chair, Transportation Committee
- Sen. Dick Ackerman, Vice Chair, Judiciary Committee
- Sen. Bob Dutton, Carrier of Governor's bond proposal
- Assemblymember Bill Emmerson, Appropriations Committee
- Assemblymember Betty Karnette, Transportation Committee
- Assemblymember Jerome Horton, Chair, Governmental Organization Committee
- Assemblymember Bob Huff, Vice Chair, Transportation Committee
- Assemblymember Carol Liu, Transportation, Governmental Organizations Committees
- Assemblymember Van Tran, Banking & Finance/Business & Professionals Committees
- Assemblymember Joe Baca Jr., Housing & Community Development Committee
- Howard Posner, Chief Consultant, Assembly Transportation Committee
- Kyle Packham, Legislative Aide for Assemblymember Sharon Runner, Vice Chair, Appropriations

For more information about SCAG's legislative program, please call Don Rhodes, Manager of Government Affairs at 213/236-1840.